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File Code: 3410 **Date:** February 14, 2002
Route To:

Subject: 2001 Insect and Disease Aerial Detection Surveys - Prescott NF

To: Forest Supervisor, Prescott National Forest

The annual forest insect and disease aerial detection survey was conducted over the Prescott NF August 21-22, 2001, by R3 Forest Health observers. Following is a summary of the results of this survey.

Ponderosa pine mortality was detected on 8,089 acres this past summer. This represents a substantial increase from year 2000. We suspect *Ips* beetles are responsible. A large portion of this mortality is situated in the Prescott Basin area around Crown King. The recreation sites within these areas are possibly sustaining tree mortality from this outbreak.

The extended drought in the southwest has contributed to an abundance of stressed trees across all sites. Such trees are visible from the air with grey-green foliage and/or off-color brown foliage. Though the trees are not dead, it is apparent they are very moisture-stressed. These sites are potential locations where, in the near future, bark beetle activity may occur.

Mortality from fire was evident around numerous small to moderate size fires across the Forest. These areas will be monitored closely in the 2002 aerial surveys for the possibility of associated bark beetle activity.

Upon availability, maps depicting conditions detected will be sent to appropriate Forest-level staff and Ranger District personnel. Electronic format copies of the spatial data are being forwarded to Forest GIS staff and are to be made available to Forest and District personnel for any projects to which they may be relevant. Please advise District personnel via this letter of this availability.

Should you have any questions regarding this survey, would like to request spatial data, or need additional information about forest insects and diseases, please feel free to contact Steve Dudley (928-556-2071), email at sdudley@fs.fed.us or Bobbe Fitzgibbon (928-556-2072), email at bfitzgibbon@fs.fed.us.

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